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BOROUGH OF REIGATE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
T. H. Bingham, M.D., D.P.H.

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Together with the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR  
G. Janes, M.R.San.I.  
M.S.I.A.

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CLARICE V. GEE  
ROSEMARY KING





BOROUGH OF REIGATE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1954

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To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough of Reigate in the year 1954. The Report is drawn up generally in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, as indicated in Circular 42/51, and in the main follows the same arrangement as earlier issues in the same series.

The only noteworthy epidemiological event of the year was the occurrence of a localised outbreak of bacillary dysentery in the Merstham district in the latter part of March. The infection was traced with reasonable certainty to a food handler and had in all probability been present for some weeks before its nature was recognised and reported. Although the disease was relatively mild in type and fairly limited in distribution, the search for convalescent cases and possible carriers, and the collection of specimens for laboratory examination, entailed a very considerable amount of work, in which the assistance and co-operation of the medical practitioners and health visitors working in the district were invaluable.

There was no undue prevalence of any other infectious illness; in fact, the case rates for most of the acute infections, more particularly scarlet fever, influenza and measles, were amongst the lowest ever experienced in the Borough. The incidence of respiratory and non-respiratory tuberculosis also was very much lower than usual, and may in future be still further reduced by extension of the practice of B.C.G. vaccination, and in consequence of the recent prohibition of the sale locally of non-designated milk.

In most respects the vital statistics for 1954 compare favourably with any previously reported. The birth rate of 14.4 is slightly above the average for the preceding five years, while the survival rate of young infants is very much higher than any observed in the past. The decline in the general death rate to 12.0, the lowest level reached since 1948, is the more noteworthy in view of the present system of assignment to the Borough of certain institution deaths which were formerly transferred to other areas.

With regard to deaths from specified and defined causes, attention is drawn to the unusually high mortality from violence and accident, including deaths from injuries received in motor vehicle accidents and those following relatively minor accidents to elderly persons in their own homes. The total mortality attributed to cancer and malignant disease is the lowest for several years, though a proportionately higher number of the deaths were due to cancer of the lung affecting males over middle age; this follows the trend observed nationally and locally during the last five or six years. The acute infectious diseases and all forms of tuberculosis made very much less than their usual contribution to the death rate, the lower prevalence being accompanied by greatly reduced mortality.



The prevention of disease by protective inoculation against it is undoubtedly a valuable and practical application of public health principles. Special attention might therefore be drawn to the greatly increased acceptance of artificial immunisation against small-pox, diphtheria and whooping cough, particularly of the infant population, and to the encouraging response to the recently-introduced scheme for the vaccination of thirteen-year-old school children against tuberculosis. The discovery of a safe and effective vaccine for general or selective inoculation against poliomyelitis, preferably in combination with the immunising agents in use against other diseases, would greatly extend the scope of preventive action in the field of epidemic illness.

Reference has been made in previous reports to the public health and social problems connected with the domiciliary care of the chronic sick, aged and infirm. Several such cases were referred to the Public Health Department on the grounds that the persons concerned were living in grossly insanitary surroundings, were unable to give to themselves and were not receiving from others the care and attention they required., and that the conditions generally would warrant action for compulsory removal to a suitable institution. With the assistance forthcoming from the Home Help Service, the Public Health Department, the Divisional Welfare Officer and other official and voluntary agencies, it was possible in every case to effect such improvement in the sanitary circumstances and in the standard of care that removal to a hospital or institution was not necessary.

I have again to record my sincere appreciation of the efficient and conscientious service rendered by my staff, the assistance and close co-operation of officials engaged in other departments of the Corporation and the support and consideration extended to me throughout the year by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. H. BINGHAM

Medical Officer of Health

REIGATE

22nd July, 1955





SECTION 1

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (Land and Inland Water)	.. .. .	10,255 acres
Population, Census 1951	.. .. .	42,248
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-year, 1954	.. .. .	47,610
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1954 according to Rate Books	.. .. .	14,214
Rateable Value (1954)	.. .. .	£506,548
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	.. .. .	£2,039

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Population

The population of the Borough, including members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area, was estimated by the Registrar-General to be 47,610 at mid-year 1954. This represents a population increment of 2,720 in the preceding twelve months, of which 115 is attributable to natural increase, or excess of live births over deaths, and 2,605 to migration.. The population gains under both headings are very much greater than usual, in the former case in consequence of the sharp fall in the death rate and in the latter as a result of the influx of new residents to the London County Council's Housing Estate at Merstham. The Registrar-General's estimate is not greatly at variance with the population figure computed on information from other sources and, accordingly, the various statistical rates for the year, which are calculated on the estimate, fairly represent the extent of sickness and mortality actually experienced in the Borough in the year under review.

Births

A total of 687 live infants (359 males and 328 females) were born to women normally resident in the Borough. The recorded birth rate for the year was, therefore, 14.4 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 15.2 in 1953 and an average annual rate of 15.89 in the preceding ten years. It is especially noteworthy and of favourable significance that the decline in the birth rate in 1954 was accompanied by exceptionally low mortality amongst new-born infants and that there was no appreciable increase in the proportion registered as still-born. The survival rate of illegitimate infants is also satisfactory.

The recorded birth rate cannot validly be compared with that for England and Wales until adjusted to make approximate allowance for the way in which the age and sex constitution of the population of the Borough differs from that of the country as a whole. When so adjusted, the local rate is advanced to 15.1 per 1,000, as compared with 15.2 in England and Wales.

Deaths

The deaths assigned to the area include those of Borough residents who died elsewhere, but exclude those of temporary residents, which are transferred to the districts in which they normally resided. The total number of deaths so assigned was 572, of which 280 were of males and 292 of females.

The death rate calculated on this total is 12.01 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 14.19 in 1953 and an average annual rate of 12.86 for the preceding ten years. The latter comparison is very much more favourable than the actual figures would suggest, in view of the recent alteration in the method adopted for the statistical treatment of transferable deaths. This provides for the assignment to the Borough of deaths occurring in certain local residential institutions, homes for the aged, etc., which were formerly transferable to the areas from which the inmates had been admitted; this alteration had the effect of raising the local death rate for 1953 and subsequent years. When corrected in the prescribed manner for purposes of comparison, the death rate for 1954 is reduced to 9.3 per 1,000, as against 11.3 for the country as a whole.



TABLE 1

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:-

Legitimate	..	..	Males	348	Females	318	Total	666
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	11	Females	10	Total	21

<u>Birth Rate</u>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.4
Do. 1953	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.2
Do. for the five years 1949 to 1953	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.2

Still Births:-

Legitimate	..	..	Males	7	Females	6	Total	13
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	-	Females	-	Total	-

<u>Rate per 1,000 total births</u>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18.5
Do. do. 1953	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10.1

Deaths (nett):

Males	..	280	Females	..	292	..	..	Total	572
Do. 1953:-									
Males	..	304	Females	..	333	..	..	Total	637

<u>Death Rate</u>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.0
Do 1953	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.1
Do. for the five years 1949 to 1953	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13.0

Percentage of total deaths occurring in Public

<u>Institutions</u>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40.9
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Maternal Mortality:-

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	..	..	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births	..	..	Nil

Infant Mortality:-

Deaths of infants under one year of age:-

Legitimate	..	..	Males	4	Females	5	Total	9
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	-	Females	-	Total	-

Infant Death Rate:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	13.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births					13.5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births					Nil

Death of infants under 4 weeks of age:-

Legitimate	..	..	Males	4	Females	1	Total	5
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	-	Females	-	Total	-

Deaths from:-

Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	83
Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Gastro-enteritis (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	..	..	0





The numbers of deaths of each sex in various age groups were as follows: -

<u>Age group</u>		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
0 - 1 year	..	4	5	9
1 - 5 years	..	3	1	4
5 - 10 years	..	1	1	2
10 - 15 years	..	1	-	1
15 - 20 years	..	-	-	-
20 - 30 years	..	4	3	7
30 - 40 years	..	8	6	14
40 - 50 years	..	12	7	19
50 - 60 years	..	31	21	52
60 - 70 years	..	63	54	117
70 - 80 years	..	87	92	179
80 - 90 years	..	60	87	147
90 and upwards	..	6	15	21
		<u>280</u>	<u>292</u>	<u>572</u>

The most striking feature in the above is the exceptionally small number of infants who died in their first year. Of the nine such deaths recorded, eight took place in hospital; five were of babies born prematurely and who succumbed within a few hours or days of birth, and four were attributable to congenital defects or malformation which would have resulted in varying degrees of permanent crippling or incapacity had the infants survived. The total infant deaths represent a mortality rate of 13.10 per 1,000 live births, which is by far the lowest yet recorded in the Borough and falls well below the corresponding rate for England and Wales, which was 25.5.

The numbers of deaths assigned to specified causes are set out in Table 11. Rather more than one-half of the total were attributed to diseases of the heart and circulation, in most cases of the terminal or degenerative type occurring in association with senility. This proportion is not unduly high when considered in relation to the age group distribution of the population of the Borough.

Cancer and malignant diseases made somewhat less than their usual contribution to the death rate; in fact, the mortality from this cause has not shown any significant increase in the Borough in the past twenty years and is considerably lower than that recorded for the country as a whole. Recently, however, there has been a very noticeable change in the frequency with which different organs are affected. This applies more particularly to cancer of the lung, which claimed more than twice as many male victims in 1954 as it did five years before. Making due allowance for improved facilities for diagnosis, for example, through the Mass Radiography Service, there is evidence of a definite and substantial increase in the prevalence and mortality of lung cancer. This is reflected also in national statistics and is no doubt due to a combination of causes, many of which are as yet unidentified.

The total number of deaths attributed to violence and accident is very much greater than usual. Five males and two females died from injuries received in motor vehicle accidents; there were no such fatalities in 1953. Ten of the other accidental deaths occurred in the home and, with one exception, were of aged persons who died from the effects of accidental falls and comparatively minor injuries which younger and more robust persons would probably have survived. The prevention of such accidents is an exceedingly difficult problem, as so many of the persons concerned are from choice living alone and tend to resent any attempt at interference with their normal mode of living or advice on home safety measures.

It is especially noteworthy that the mortality ascribed to the acute infectious diseases, notably influenza, was exceptionally low. Proportionately fewer deaths resulted from tuberculosis of the lungs and other respiratory affections while, for the fifth consecutive year, no loss of life was attributed to pregnancy, child-bearing or other maternal causes. The numbers of deaths attributed to other defined diseases do not exceed the average for the Borough and do not indicate unusual or excessive mortality from any particular cause.



TABLE II

Causes of Death in the Borough of Reigate  
during 1954

	M	F	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .. ..	3	2	5
2. Tuberculosis, other forms .. ..	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease .. ..	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria .. ..	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough .. ..	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections .. ..	-	-	-
7. Acute polio-myelitis .. ..	-	-	-
8. Measles .. ..	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. ..	4	4	8
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	13	3	16
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast .. ..	-	12	12
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus .. ..	-	4	4
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	25	23	48
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia .. ..	3	1	4
16. Diabetes .. ..	-	2	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	36	62	98
18. Coronary disease, angina .. ..	52	30	82
19. Hypertension with heart disease .. ..	5	6	11
20. Other heart disease .. ..	33	52	85
21. Other circulatory disease .. ..	16	11	27
22. Influenza .. ..	2	1	3
23. Pneumonia .. ..	12	7	19
24. Bronchitis .. ..	15	7	22
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ..	2	2	4
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .. ..	3	2	5
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	4	-	4
28. Nephritis and nephrosis .. ..	5	1	6
29. Hyperplasia of prostate .. ..	3	-	3
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. ..	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations .. ..	1	5	6
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	30	41	71
33. Motor vehicle accidents .. ..	5	2	7
34. All other accidents .. ..	5	8	13
35. Suicide .. ..	3	3	6
36. Homicide and operations of war .. ..	-	-	-
Totals	280	292	572





## SECTION II

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### Water

There was no important extension of the public water supply during the year, except in connection with new building development.

With the exception of fourteen houses which depend for their water supply on two private wells, all dwellings in the Borough have a continuous and direct supply from the East Surrey Water Company. The water is derived from deep borings in the chalk and is softened, chlorinated and de-chlorinated before distribution to consumers.

The supply was adequate in quantity throughout the year, the average daily consumption per head of population being about thirty to forty gallons. The quality of the water, as revealed by chemical and bacteriological examination at regular intervals, was invariably reported to be satisfactory. A complaint of cloudy appearance of water drawn from the public main was investigated and traced to minute particles of chalk in suspension, due to temporary disturbance of the local mains; the water otherwise was of excellent quality.

Samples of the water before and after treatment are submitted twice weekly for bacteriological examination, under private arrangements made by the East Surrey Water Company. In addition, samples of the treated water are examined chemically and/or bacteriologically about forty times a year, under a rota system arranged by the Medical Officers of Health of the districts supplied by the Company; samples are taken in each district at stated times and copies of the Analyst's reports are circulated for the information of the other districts concerned. The following report is typical of those received during the year:-

"This sample is clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals. The hardness of the water and its content of mineral and saline constituents are very moderate and it conforms to the highest standard of organic quality and bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes."

One of the two private wells referred to above supplies two farm cottages and has been reported by the Analyst to be grossly polluted with organisms of excremental origin. The occupiers of the cottages have accordingly been instructed to boil all water drawn from the well for drinking and domestic purposes, and the owner has been urged to consider the provision of a satisfactory alternative supply. The cottages have now been piped in readiness for connection to the public main.

The other private well supplies a mineral water factory and a group of adjoining cottages. A sample taken from the well during the year was reported to show slight bacterial impurity, which was traced to a defect in the pumping apparatus. The defect has been repaired and the owner has again been advised, as a precautionary measure, to make private arrangements for bacteriological examination of the water at least once a month and to furnish the Public Health Department with copies of the Analyst's reports. He has also been put in touch with a laboratory where such investigations are undertaken and has been offered the assistance of the Public Health Department in the collection of samples. No action has yet been taken on the advice given.

#### Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The drainage systems of a group of five dwelling houses and a dairy farm situated on the eastern boundary of Merstham were connected to the sewer serving the London County Council's Housing Estate. This work was carried out after a very considerable amount of negotiation and correspondence between the Public Health Department, the owners of the properties and the officers of various departments of the London County Council. It resulted in the abolition of six cesspools which, although emptied at regular intervals by the Council's cesspool emptier, had been causing nuisance intermittently over a long period.



The Borough Engineer and Surveyor has supplied the following particulars of important extensions, improvements and developments of the arrangements for drainage, sewerage and sewage disposal in the area:-

(a) Housing Estate by Private Development

The Grange Estate, London Road, Merstham  
 330 Lineal Yds. Foul Sewers.  
 407 " " Surface Water Sewers

(b) Extensions of Existing Surface Water Sewerage System carried out by the Corporation

Batts Hill Road, Redhill	227 Lin. Yds.
Lonesome Lane, Reigate	279 " "
Bletchingley Road, Merstham	704 " "
Flanchford Road, Reigate	80 " "
Brighton Road (A.23), Earlswood	310 " "
Whitepost Hill, Redhill	200 " "
London Road (A.23), Merstham	61 " "
Caravan Site, Three Arch Road, Earlswood	95 " "

(c) Enlargement and Repairs of Surface Water Sewers carried out by Corporation

St. John's Road, Redhill	43 Lin. Yds
Rushworth Road and Holmesdale Road, Reigate.	137 " "
Lonesome Lane, Reigate	
Enlargement of culvert under road	30 " "

(d) Extension of Existing Foul Sewerage System carried out by Corporation in order to reduce the number of properties draining to Cesspools

Doods Park Road, Reigate	71 Lin. Yds.
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Closet accommodation

There is nothing to report under this heading.

Rivers and Streams

The streams and surface water courses in the area are regularly inspected, and all necessary action is taken to render them free from obstruction and pollution.

Public Cleansing

A weekly collection of house and trade refuse is in operation in all parts of the Borough. More frequent collections are made of trade refuse having a high content of putrescible matter. Refuse with no salvage value is disposed of by incineration.

The conditions of storage of house and trade refuse are generally satisfactory, and have been greatly improved by the replacement of receptacles found to be dilapidated or defective.

With a view to preventing serious nuisance from flies, communal street bins for the collection of kitchen waste were emptied thrice weekly during the summer months, and were withdrawn and thoroughly cleansed at intervals of seven to ten days. These measures had the desired result.

Arrangements have been made for the salvage of waste paper, scrap metal, bottles, etc., and for the processing for animal feeding of waste food collected in the Borough and in neighbouring Sanitary Districts.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

A classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered, and the action and result of action taken in regard to these will be found in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.







## Shops

Inspections for the purposes of the Shops Act, 1950, continue to be made as and when necessary.

## Camping Sites

Seventeen licences (eight new licences and nine renewals) were granted under Section 269, Sub-section (1) (ii) of the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of trailer caravans occupied by families who were without proper housing accommodation.

The three privately-owned sites referred to in the Annual Report for 1953 continued in use during 1954, with accommodation for a total of 128 caravans. These sites were frequently inspected and were found to be reasonably well managed and maintained.

In addition to the above, there is the Corporation's caravan site in Three Arch Road, Redhill, with accommodation for a maximum of 40 caravans. There has been a steady demand for plots on this site, which have been let almost exclusively to applicants having residential or occupational connections with the Borough. A few plots have intentionally been kept vacant and so available for urgent and special cases.

Several of the plots have been in the same occupation since the site was opened in August, 1953, but others have been vacated after short periods, in most cases because the tenants have changed their place of employment or have obtained more suitable housing accommodation. During the year there were twenty new lettings, and twelve families left the site; the total number of families accommodated was 48.

## Smoke Abatement

Complaints of nuisance from smoke from boiler installations were received in respect of five premises, namely, three laundries, a small slaughterhouse and a motor repair garage. In the first four cases it was found, on enquiry, that the excessive emission of smoke had been for a short period only and was not likely to be repeated. In the fifth case, which concerned a garage in a residential area, the owner of the premises sought the advice of the Area Engineer of the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service, with very satisfactory results.

Residents in the vicinity of a foundry attached to a light engineering works complained from time to time of fumes from a Cupola flue. H.M. Inspector of Alkali etc. Works was consulted on the matter, and it is hoped that the firm concerned will agree to adopt his suggestion that the height of the chimney stack should be slightly increased, as the other expedients which have already been resorted to have not produced any noticeable improvement. The special difficulty in this case is that the top of the flue is below the level of the neighbouring houses.

## Swimming Baths and Pools

Two swimming baths in the area are open to the public. Both are covered baths owned and controlled by the Corporation, and are equipped with the necessary plant for continuous filtration and chlorination. Samples of water from both baths were submitted to analysis at the height of the bathing season and were reported upon as follows:-

"This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals. The organic quality of the water is not of a high standard, but a satisfactory residuum of chlorine is present and the bacteriological results are very satisfactory.

These results are indicative of water suitable for bathing purposes."

Copies of the Analyst's reports were supplied to the Baths Superintendent.

The privately-owned open-air pool in Bancroft Road, Reigate, has been closed and the site is now in use for commercial purposes.



## Eradication of Bed Bugs

The disinfection of verminous premises was carried out by the Disinfecting Officer, under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. Particulars of Council and other houses found to be infested and dealt with during the year are set out in a later section of this report.

## Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

In accordance with Section 123 of the above-named Act, the Table given below indicates the work which has been carried out during 1954.

### (1) Inspections

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	30	12	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	146	149	-	-
(iii) Others .. .. .	7	11	-	-
TOTAL	183	172	-	-

### (2) Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ..	4	5	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors .. .. .	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) insufficient .. ..	4	4	-	2	-
(b) unsuitable or defective .. ..	11	5	-	3	-
(c) not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	20	15	-	5	-

### (3) Out Work (Sections 110 and 111)

No lists of outworkers were received from local employers. Thirteen lists were received from other Authorities, affecting fifteen persons, whose premises were visited. No action was necessary.





### SECTION III

#### HOUSING

The statistical particulars relating to housing the area are set out below.

It will be observed that a total of 177 dwelling-houses were inspected for housing defects and that 50 of these were recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations. Thirty-three were considered to be unfit for human habitation and not repairable at reasonable expense and were accordingly recommended for action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936; Demolition Orders were made in twenty-four cases and Closing Orders in two; an offer by the owner of three cottages to convert them into two habitable dwellings, with the aid of an improvement grant, was accepted by the Council; the condition of a building, comprising three flats over shop premises, was still under consideration at the end of the year. One dwelling-house in this category was dealt with informally; the occupants, who had outgrown their accommodation, were rehoused by the Council, and the owner then put the house into habitable condition for his own occupation.

Informal notices were served on the owners of 127 houses, which were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation; 72 defective houses in this category were rendered fit before the end of the year.

In three cases it was necessary to serve formal notices under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the abatement of nuisances arising from various structural defects.

Four new cases of overcrowding came to notice during the year, including two in Corporation properties. One case was relieved by rehousing a sub-tenant. Eight dwelling-houses were known to be overcrowded at the end of the year, as compared with five at the end of 1953.

#### HOUSING STATISTICS

##### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. .. .	177
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	943
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 .. .. .	50
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	135
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .	33
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..	127

##### 2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers .. .. .	72
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##### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ..	-
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
(a)	By owners .. .. .	Nil
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	-



(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By owners .. .. .	2
(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. .	24
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. .	28
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..	2
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV. Overcrowding

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .. .. .	8
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein .. ..	17
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein .. ..	81
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .. .. .	4
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. .. .	1
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ..	10
(d) Number of dwelling-houses which again became overcrowded after the local authority had taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .. .. .	Nil

The Council's Housing Manager has very kindly supplied the following particulars in respect of the year under review:-

1. <u>Number of new dwellings completed during the year:-</u>	214
2. <u>Families rehoused from waiting list:-</u>	
In permanent Council houses	78
In permanent Council flats	74
In old people's bungalows	-
In prefabricated temporary bungalows	6
In requisitioned property	31
In miscellaneous property	2
	Total: 191
3. <u>Families transferred from requisitioned property:-</u>	
To permanent Council houses	66
To permanent Council flats	24
To prefabricated <del>temporary</del> bungalows	1
To other requisitioned property	4
	Total: 95
4. <u>Families transferred from hutments:-</u>	
To permanent Council house	1
5. <u>Families transferred from prefabricated temporary bungalows:-</u>	
To permanent Council houses	10
6. <u>Families transferred from permanent Council dwellings:-</u>	
To prefabricated temporary bungalows	3
To old people's bungalow	1
To requisitioned property	2
	Total: 6
7. <u>Families transferred from one type of permanent Council dwelling to another:-</u>	68
8. <u>Tenants of other local authorities who have exchanged accommodation with tenants of Reigate Borough Council:-</u>	5
9. <u>Tenants of private landlords who have exchanged accommodation with tenants of Reigate Borough Council:-</u>	4





## SECTION IV

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### Milk Supply

In compliance with the requirements of the Milk (Special Designations) (Special Areas) (No.2) Order, 1954, made by the Minister of Food under the Food & Drugs (Milk, Dairies & Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, all milk sold by retail in the Borough on and after 1st October, 1954, had to be pasteurised, sterilised or tuberculin-tested. This made very little difference locally, as most of the milk retailed in the district in recent years has been of one or other of these designations. A dairyman who had been in business in the district for over thirty years and who supplied a small quantity of untreated non-designated milk thought it an opportune time to dispose of his business.

Milk supplies are sampled frequently on the lines and for the purposes mentioned in previous reports. The laboratory findings on samples examined in 1954 are summarised in Table III, and show that the milk on sale locally reaches a very high standard of bacterial quality.

Two samples of tuberculin-tested milk failed to pass the methylene-blue reduction test for keeping quality; the matter was reported to the Milk Production Officer of the County Agricultural Executive Committee, who is responsible for ensuring satisfactory conditions at the place of production.

All samples of pasteurised milk successfully passed the phosphatase test, indicating that the pasteurising process had consistently been carried out efficiently; one sample was reported to be of poor keeping quality, and in the case of fourteen others, the prescribed test could not be applied because of the high atmospheric temperature at the time of the examination.

Thirty samples of milk submitted to biological examination were reported to be free from living organisms of tuberculosis. Periodic biological testing is confined to milk that will not be subjected to heat treatment before delivery to the consumer.

TABLE III

#### RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

##### 1. Tests required by Regulations governing Special Designations

No. of Samples	Methylene Blue			Phosphatase		Turbi- dity
	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Test Void	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory
Tuberculin Tested: 20	18	2	-	-	-	-
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised): 23	23	-	-	23	-	-
Pasteurised: 85	70	1	14	85	-	-
Sterilised: 7	-	-	-	-	-	7



## 2. Biological Examination

No. of Samples	Tubercle Bacilli +	% Tubercle Bacilli +
30	Nil	0.00

### Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949 & 1950

Licences, as under for the sale of designated milk were granted to fourteen retailers in the area:-

			<u>Number of</u> <u>Licences</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Premises</u>
<u>Type of Licence</u>				
Pasteurised	..	Pasteuriser's	1	1
"	..	Dealer's	5	10
"	..	Supplementary	4	-
Tuberculin Tested		Dealer's	4	9
"	"	Supplementary	4	-
Sterilised	..	Dealer's	12	17
"	..	Supplementary	1	-

### Meat and Other Foods

The action taken under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is described in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, which also includes an account of unsound food destroyed and particulars of inspections of premises where food is prepared.

### Adulteration, etc.

No special action was necessary under Sections 29 and 31 of the Food & Drugs (Milk, Dairies & Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, nor under the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 to 1948, and the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 to 1948.

All articles submitted to the Public Analyst were examined for the presence of preservatives, in accordance with the Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1940, but no infringements were reported.

### Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food

Samples for chemical analysis and samples of milk and ice-cream for biological and bacteriological examination are sent to the Council's Analyst, Mr. D. D. Moir, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Twenty samples of ice-cream from seventeen retailers were examined for bacterial quality by submission to the methylene-blue reduction test. All were placed within Grades I and II, indicating that a satisfactory standard of cleanliness had been observed in manufacture, storage and handling. Four of the samples were taken at one of the two premises registered in the Borough for the manufacture of ice-cream; no ice-cream was manufactured during the year at the other registered premises.





## SECTION V

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

#### Provision of Isolation Hospital Accommodation

The provision of hospital accommodation for the isolation and treatment of cases of infectious disease is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board. Patients from the Borough are admitted to the isolation hospital at Bletchingley, if the required accommodation and facilities are available; otherwise, they are sent to isolation hospitals in other parts of the Hospital Region. The Infectious Diseases Hospital at Westcott, which had been used to a limited extent in the past for the reception of cases of scarlet fever from the Borough, was closed on 31st October, 1954.

Uncomplicated cases of the commoner infections, such as measles, mumps and whooping cough, are not usually accepted, unless recommended by the Medical Officer of Health on the grounds that the patient cannot be satisfactorily isolated and treated at home; several such cases were admitted to hospital during the year.

There was no complaint of difficulty or delay in securing the admission of infectious patients to hospital; neither was there complaint of dissatisfaction with the arrangements for ambulance transport or with the quality of the hospital services given. It still occasionally happens that certain isolation hospital authorities fail to notify the Medical Officer of Health as a matter of course of the admission and discharge of patients from his area, and of the ultimate diagnosis made in cases admitted to hospital on suspicion. This has necessitated repeated telephone enquiries to the hospital concerned and has tended to delay the application of appropriate precautionary measures in relation to immediate contacts. The position in this respect is gradually improving as a result of informal approach to the responsible officers of the hospitals in question.

#### Notifiable Infectious Diseases

The action taken on receipt of a notification that a person is suffering from an infectious disease is fully described in previous reports.

The exclusion from school of infected persons and contacts is carried out in accordance with the suggestions contained in the joint Memorandum issued in 1927 by the Ministry of Health and Board of Education, and amended in August, 1942.

Table IV shows the number of the various notifiable infectious diseases (other than tuberculosis) recorded in the area during the calendar year, classified according to the age of the patient, together with the numbers of cases removed to hospital, and the total deaths from each disease. The prevalence of the various diseases is reviewed below.

#### Small-pox

No case of small-pox was reported in the Borough during the year.

Reports were received from time to time of the arrival in the Borough of persons who had recently been in contact with definite or suspected cases of small-pox, either in this country or abroad, or had visited localities where the disease was known to be prevalent. All were visited and kept under surveillance for the prescribed period and arrangements were made for vaccination or re-vaccination, if this was considered to be advisable.



TABLE IV

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED  
DURING THE YEAR 1954

	Cases notified in Age Periods												Totals	Total cases removed to hospital	Total Deaths
	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over			
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	1	9	5	1	-	-	-	-	17	11	-
Whooping Cough	24	20	26	27	36	111	5	1	3	2	-	1	256	3	-
Measles	-	1	1	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	1	-
Pneumonia	-	1	1	-	2	7	2	1	3	3	9	15	44	18	-
Acute Poliomyelitis															19 *
(a) Paralytic	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
(b) Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Dysentery	1	1	5	1	-	10	2	-	4	1	-	-	25	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	12	2	-	-	15	13	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	2	7	2	-
Totals ..	26	23	33	29	42	140	14	4	24	8	13	18	374	50	19
Totals 1953 ..	41	97	132	136	182	619	38	13	34	16	20	22	1350	86	24

\* All forms





## Scarlet Fever

The prevalence of scarlet fever was by far the lowest for several years and was practically confined to the first half of the year and to children attending junior schools. The reported cases were scattered in distribution and did not show significant grouping in relation to any particular school or locality. Relatively few were removed to hospital, the remainder being satisfactorily isolated and treated in their own homes.

As in recent years, the infection appeared to be fairly mild in type and rarely followed by serious after-effects; in two cases, however, convalescence was prolonged by heart complications and in two by chronic inflammation of the glands of the neck. Reference has been made in previous reports to difficulty in early recognition of atypical or abortive cases of scarlet fever and, consequently, in the prompt institution of appropriate measures to prevent spread of infection.

## Whooping Cough

The number of reported cases of whooping cough was not unduly high. Most of them occurred in the early part of the year, when the infants' departments of St. John's, Earlswood and Herstham Schools were chiefly affected. Unusual epidemiological features were the relatively high prevalence amongst children under the age of twelve months and the frequency of multiple cases in the same households. One case was already under treatment in hospital at the time of notification and two others were admitted on the recommendation of the Public Health Department on the grounds of overcrowded and otherwise unsatisfactory home surroundings.

The home-treated cases were kept under observation by the Health Visitors, who reported that the infection was generally of very moderate severity, particularly in the case of three children who had recently completed a course of artificial immunisation against the disease, and that the arrangements for isolation were reasonably satisfactory.

## Measles

The rate of prevalence of measles was the lowest yet recorded in the Borough; 7 cases were reported, as compared with 1022 in 1953 and an annual average of 263 in the preceding ten years. The relative freedom from infection in 1954 was not unexpected, in view of the exceptionally large number of children who were attacked by the disease, and thereby acquired immunity to it, in the widespread epidemic in the previous year. With gradual increase in the number of young children not so protected and in the absence of effective protection by artificial means, the prevalence of measles will gradually rise until it again becomes epidemic. Although this can be foreseen, it cannot readily be prevented, as the disease is very highly infective for several days preceding the appearance of characteristic symptoms.

## Pneumonia

The number of notifications of pneumonia, though lower than in 1953, was well above the average for the past few years. The increase is probably explained by more complete notification, rather than by actual increase in incidence or severity. This view is supported by the fall in the number of post-humous notifications and of deaths of cases not previously notified.

Most of the cases occurred at the beginning and end of the year and amongst persons in the older age groups, in several of whom the lung infection was stated to be secondary to influenza. The proportion of cases treated in hospital, nearly one-half of the total, is much greater than usual. This would appear to be in accordance with the modern trend, as it was formerly the practice to restrict hospital admission to those patients who could not be properly nursed in their own homes.

In spite of the greater prevalence of pneumonia, the mortality ascribed to it was among the lowest experienced in the Borough. This may be an indication of the advantages of skilled nursing in hospital and of the efficacy of modern methods of treatment.





### Acute Poliomyelitis

There was one notification of poliomyelitis. This related to an infant of ten months, who almost certainly became infected while staying with a relative in another part of the country. It is possibly of some significance that the relative in question was a District Nurse and was at the time in attendance on a case of poliomyelitis. It is also of interest that the infant had completed a course of intra-muscular injections for whooping cough and diphtheria prophylaxis shortly before the onset of the illness, but this did not appear to influence the site of the paralysis. The illness in this case was of moderate severity and left some paralysis in one leg, for which in-patient treatment in hospital was arranged.

Three suspected cases of poliomyelitis were admitted to hospital from residential institutions in the Borough, but all were later reported to be suffering from non-infectious illness. The removal of suspected cases to hospital for observation is actively encouraged as, in the event of the diagnosis being confirmed, there is no avoidable delay in the provision of specialised treatment.

### Meningococcal Infection

One case of cerebro-spinal meningitis due to the meningococcus was reported. This affected a seven-year-old child, who was admitted to a London hospital and made a good recovery. Suitable precautions were taken and no further cases were reported.

### Dysentery

The twenty-five cases of dysentery reported during the year were all infected with the Sonne type of organism and were of moderate severity.

Two were isolated cases having no established connection with each other or with any known case of the disease.

The remaining twenty-three occurred almost simultaneously in the Merstham district in the latter part of March. The outbreak appeared to originate amongst pupils in the infants' department of Albury Manor School, who were no doubt responsible for conveying the infection to other members of their families; multiple cases in the same households were not at all uncommon. In the course of investigation at Albury Manor School it was discovered that a member of the kitchen staff had been absent from duty some two or three weeks previously with gastrointestinal symptoms which were very strongly suggestive of bacillary dysentery, and that other members of her household had been similarly affected. The occurrence had been formally reported to the School Meals Supervisor but, very unfortunately, had not been brought to the notice of the Public Health Department. All members of the kitchen staff were required to submit to examination; the original case and one other kitchen helper were found to be excreting dysentery organisms and were forthwith suspended from duty. Children known to be infected were rigidly excluded from school and their parents were advised with regard to the precautions to be taken. Diligent search was made for missed cases and carriers by investigation of home contacts and by following up school absentees who had a history of suspicious illness. This led to the discovery of eight convalescent cases and seven carriers who were still infectious, though not at the time presenting symptoms of dysentery.

It was thought to be advisable to obtain three consecutive negative specimens from everyone who had at any time given a positive result, before allowing re-admission to school or relaxation of the restrictions imposed in the case of adults. The collection of specimens was very successfully undertaken by the Health Visitors, with the assistance and co-operation of the medical practitioners concerned. The outbreak was effectively brought under control, but inevitably caused serious interference with school attendance, particularly of children in whom the infection was unusually persistent. The important and regrettable feature of the whole occurrence was that the outbreak could have been prevented or, at least, limited in extent, if the original case had been promptly recognised and officially notified.





### Puerperal Pyrexia

Fifteen maternity patients were reported to have rise of temperature during the lying-in period. Twelve had been confined in hospitals or maternity institutions in the Borough, where they remained under treatment. One domiciliary case was removed to hospital for treatment and the remaining two were successfully dealt with in their own homes. The total number is not unduly large and includes six cases admitted to hospitals in the Borough from neighbouring districts.

### Food Poisoning

One case of gastro-intestinal infection, of moderate severity and of relatively short duration, was found on laboratory investigation to be caused by food poisoning organisms. The source of infection could not be traced, as the patient had most of his meals at restaurants and canteens, from which specimens of suspected articles of food were not obtainable for bacteriological examination.

Two other cases of illness which were thought to be attributable to the ingestion of contaminated food were fully investigated, with negative results in each case.

### Erysipelas

There were seven notified cases of erysipelas, two of which were removed to hospital. All recovered satisfactorily.

### Tuberculosis

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis which came to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year are set out in Table V, together with an analysis of the deaths in the area from this disease during the same period.

The number of new cases of tuberculosis of the lungs coincides with the average for the past ten years and represents a case rate of 0.69 per thousand of the population. This is a considerable advance on the corresponding rate for 1953, due to greater prevalence of the disease amongst males, particularly those between the ages of fifteen and twenty-five years. The position with regard to non-respiratory forms of tuberculosis is much more favourable, the total number of cases being the lowest observed in the past thirty years. It is worth mentioning that none of the new cases became known through post-humous notification, nor from the Registrar's Returns of Deaths.

In addition to the new cases there were reports of forty-seven previously-known cases of tuberculosis (44 respiratory and 3 non-respiratory) who had been notified elsewhere and had taken up residence in the Borough. These included twenty-five new residents of the London County Council's Housing Estate at Merstham. The majority of these are under the supervision of the Chest Physician for the area.

The five deaths attributed to tuberculosis of the lungs represents a mortality rate of 0.10 per thousand of the population, which compares with 0.16 for England and Wales and is only a little above the exceptionally low rate of 0.08 recorded in the Borough in 1953. For the first time in several years, no mortality was ascribed to non-respiratory forms of tuberculosis.

At the end of the year there were 412 known cases of tuberculosis in the Borough, including 357 (187 males and 170 females) in which the lungs were affected, and 55 (26 males and 29 females) with tuberculosis of other organs. In many of these the disease is quiescent or arrested but all are regularly visited and supervised by the staff of the local Chest Clinic. The total number represents an increase of twenty-five on the corresponding figure for 1953, which is largely accounted for by the previously known cases transferred to the London County Council's Housing Estate. The names of twenty-four persons were removed from the register during the year - twenty-two on complete recovery from the disease and two on being found, after full investigation, to be non-tuberculous.





TABLE V

New Cases of Tuberculosis, and all Deaths from the Disease in the Area during 1954, classified according to Age, Sex and Type of Disease

Age Periods	Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5 years	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
5-15 years	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25 years	8	3	-	2	1	-	-	-
25-35 years	2	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
35-45 years	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55 years	3	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
55-65 years	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 & upwards	1	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
TOTALS ..	19	14	1	4	3	2	-	-



No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

The voluntary Tuberculosis Care Committee, which works in close association with local Chest Clinics and Sanatoria, continued its activities on behalf of tuberculous persons and their dependants. The assistance granted during the year included the supply of extra nourishment, fuel, bedding, clothing, sick-room requisites, etc., and the payment of fares, pocket money and other incidental expenses which could not be met from official sources.

### Vaccination and Immunisation

#### Vaccination against Small-pox

Vaccination against small-pox is not at present undertaken at the County Council's Clinics in the Borough. Particulars of notifications of vaccinations performed by private medical practitioners during the year are as follows:-

	0 - 1 <u>year</u>	1 - 5 <u>years</u>	5 - 15 <u>years</u>	Over 15 <u>years</u>	<u>Total</u>
Primary Vaccination	348	52	12	26	438
Re-vaccination	-	4	21	115	136

Although the total number of primary vaccinations is not very much greater than in 1953, a proportionately larger number were of infants under the age of twelve months. It is estimated that rather more than 50.0 per cent of infants born in 1954 were successfully vaccinated against small-pox. This is a substantial and welcome improvement on the figure of 46.0 per cent for the previous year, and of 30.0 per cent for the years immediately following the introduction of the National Health Service Act, under which compulsory powers in relation to small-pox vaccination were abolished. The increased acceptance of infant vaccination is in large measure due to the attention given to the subject by the Health Visitors in the course of their routine visiting of young children.

A considerable number of the re-vaccinations were of persons who were required to produce certificates of recent vaccination to enable them to travel abroad. Such certificates must be authenticated by the Medical Officer of Health of the district in which the person normally resides.

#### Immunisation against Diphtheria

The numbers of children who completed a full course of immunisation during the year, either at the County Council's Clinics or under private arrangements, are as follows:-

<u>Under 1 year</u>	<u>1 - 2 years</u>	<u>2 - 3 years</u>	<u>3 - 4 years</u>	<u>4 - 5 years</u>	<u>5 - 9 years</u>	<u>10 - 14 years</u>	<u>Total</u>
458	222	42	25	30	44	12	833

In addition, reinforcing doses of diphtheria prophylactic were given to 839 persons, mostly school entrants who had completed a course of immunisation three or four years previously.

These figures, and in particular those relating to the primary immunisation of infants under the age of one year, are very satisfactory. It is probable that the acceptance of diphtheria immunisation was greatly encouraged by the use of a vaccine for combined diphtheria and whooping cough prophylaxis; actual cases of diphtheria are now, fortunately, so uncommon that parents tend to underestimate the importance of having their children artificially protected against it, whereas whooping cough still occurs in epidemic form and its associated mortality and disabling after-effects are fairly generally realised.





It is estimated that at least 64.0 per cent of children under the age of five years and 80.0 per cent of those between the ages of five and fifteen years have been artificially immunised against diphtheria. As it is not usual to immunise infants under the age of four months, the number immunised in the 0 - 5 years age group represents rather more than 64.0 per cent of those eligible for treatment. The present level of immunity of the child population of the Borough should be sufficient to present a fairly effective barrier to widespread prevalence of diphtheria should it unfortunately be introduced into the district.

#### Vaccination against Whooping Cough

The County Council's scheme for whooping cough vaccination is of fairly recent introduction and is directed mainly to infants under the age of one year. For the time being it is not proposed to press the general acceptance of artificial immunisation against whooping cough, but parents who so wish may have their children vaccinated by their private doctors, at fixed immunisation clinics or at infant welfare sessions at which diphtheria immunisation is at present undertaken. The numbers of children in different age groups who completed a course of inoculations during the year are as follows:-

	<u>Under 1</u> <u>year</u>	<u>1 - 2</u> <u>years</u>	<u>2 - 3</u> <u>years</u>	<u>3 - 4</u> <u>years</u>	<u>4 - 5</u> <u>years</u>	<u>5 - 15</u> <u>years</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Immunised</u>	402	174	24	21	8	6	635
<u>Reinforcing</u> <u>Doses</u>	-	-	1	3	10	76	86

The numbers immunised and who received reinforcing injections are very much greater than in 1953. Although the immunisation so far undertaken is not sufficient to have any appreciable effect on the prevalence of whooping cough, it will no doubt reduce the severity of attack and the frequency of complications.

#### Measles Prophylaxis

Immune serum is available through the Public Health Department for the total or partial immunisation of susceptible measles contacts. No request for serum was received during the year.

#### B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis

The County Council has made arrangements for the protective inoculation, by B.C.G. vaccine, of selected children from households in which there is an infectious case of tuberculosis. This work is undertaken mainly by the Chest Physicians, with occasional assistance from the Divisional Medical Staff.

Toward the end of the year the scheme was extended to include thirteen-year-old pupils at County Council schools. Subject to the consent of their parents, the pupils in this age group are skin tested to ascertain if they have already had a primary tuberculous infection, and those giving a negative result are offered B.C.G. vaccination. Two schools in the Borough were dealt with before the end of the year, with the following results:-

Number of children in age group	.	..	..	107
Number consenting to treatment	..	..	..	66
Percentage consenting to treatment	..	..	..	61.7%
Number Mantoux tested	..	..	..	61
Number of negative reactors	..	..	..	51
Percentage giving negative reaction	..	..	..	83.6%
Number vaccinated	..	..	..	50
Percentage of negative reactors vaccinated	..	..	..	98.0%



## Protection against other Diseases

Prophylactic inoculation against other infectious diseases, such as enteric fever, cholera, yellow fever, etc., is necessary in the case of persons proposing to visit foreign countries where these diseases are endemic, and is usually undertaken at specified centres. The International Certificate required in such cases must be authenticated by the Medical Officer of Health of the district in which the person resides.

### Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases

Information relating to the prevalence of non-notifiable infectious and contagious diseases is necessarily incomplete, and is obtained mainly from reports of school absentees and from the Registrar's weekly returns of deaths. Cases also come to notice through enquiries by employers with regard to quarantine periods, requests for disinfection, casual communications by private medical practitioners and applications for domestic assistance under the Home Help Scheme. The occurrence of cases at the Day Nursery and in residential children's homes is also reported.

According to the information obtained from all these sources there were 273 cases of chicken-pox, mainly in the Reigate and Merstham districts, 175 of mumps, chiefly affecting Lesbourne Lands and Holmesdale schools, 8 of german measles, 5 of acute infective tonsillitis, 2 of meningitis, 1 of glandular fever and 1 of acute gastro-enteritis; 9 were admitted to hospital for observation or treatment.

### Disinfection

There are facilities at the Disinfecting Station for the sterilisation of articles that have been exposed to infection and for the cleansing of verminous persons and their belongings. Provision has been made for the treatment by formalin vapour of books and other articles which are unsuitable for disinfection by super-heated steam. The work undertaken at the Disinfecting Station during the year is summarised in a later section of this report.

### Uncleanliness

#### Pediculosis

The incidence of infestation by lice continues to be exceptionally low. Not a single instance of verminous infestation of person or clothing was encountered and relatively few of pediculosis of the scalp. The latter was confined to school children, of whom thirty-seven were found to be so affected in varying degree when examined by the Health Visitors. This is equivalent to 0.5 per cent of the total number of children examined, which is an improvement on the figure of 1.3 per cent for 1953. None of the cases was of such degree as to require compulsory cleansing under the arrangements made for that purpose, and only eight were so infested that they were excluded from school until they had been satisfactorily cleansed. Cleansing, where necessary, was undertaken by the parents, with the advice and assistance of the Health Visitors.

#### Scabies

For the first time in many years, no case of scabies was reported in the Borough, and the Public Health Department was not called upon to undertake the cleansing of cases from neighbouring areas.





BOROUGH OF REIGATE  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR 1954

Public Health Department,  
Caberfeigh,  
Hatchlands Road,  
Redhill.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit herewith my twenty-first Annual Report which relates to the work of the Sanitary Inspectors during 1954.

The duties required to be carried out by the Inspectors are those set out in the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, with the exception of those relating to the supervision of scavenging. In addition, the Chief Sanitary Inspector is required, in co-operation with the Housing Manager, to advise the Housing Sub-Committee, which is responsible for the duty of selecting tenants for vacant housing accommodation, on the housing need of applicants for Council houses. He is also required to report from time to time to the Town Planning Committee on the management of the Corporation's residential caravan site, which was opened for about 35 to 40 caravans on the 31st August, 1953; this work involves the interviewing of applicants, the allocation of plots, the day-to-day problems which inevitably arise with such a project and, with the assistance of a residential caretaker, the general care and maintenance of the site.

The report is set out under headings which follow much the same lines as in previous years. I would draw particular attention to two subjects which have been prominent in 1954, and which are referred to in the report:

(a) The arrangements made for the slaughter of animals, following de-control of meat and livestock by the Ministry of Food in July. The report shows the re-organisation which enabled local meat traders to combine and form the East Surrey Master Butchers' Association Ltd; they were thus able to provide for themselves adequate slaughterhouse accommodation, and to carry through a scheme for purchasing livestock collectively and distributing carcass meat to the members after slaughter. In my view, the local traders concerned are to be congratulated on their enterprise in embarking on a project which, if continued on the present standard of hygiene, cannot fail to be of benefit to the Borough from the public health point of view, particularly when one remembers the unsatisfactory conditions which existed throughout the period of control from 1940, due to congestion and over-loading of slaughterhouses far beyond their capacity.

(b) New legislation dealing with the clearance of unfit houses, housing repairs and improvement, and rent increases. Local Authorities are required to make known their proposals for getting rid of the unfit houses in their districts; the problem has been eased to some extent locally by the action which the Council has already taken in recent years - up to the end of 1954 demolition and closing orders had been made in 75 cases, 46 of these being in the centre of Redhill, where the worst of the properties are situated. The report refers to the survey which it was necessary to make in this connection and which was commenced in the latter part of the year.

It was still difficult to implement the repairs section of the Housing Act, 1936, in view of rent restrictions, but, as previously reported, the Inspectors were called upon to supervise a considerable amount of what is known in the Department as "voluntary" work, i.e. repair work authorised by property owners and notified to the Department by their builders, who seek consultation on, or approval of the details of the work they intend to do; for example, the remedying of serious dampness, the provision and installation of baths and sanitary fittings and the reconstruction or repair of drainage systems.



Other work has been well maintained having regard to the staff available. Priority has to be given to:-

- (a) the enquiries which are made on behalf of the Medical Officer of Health in cases of infectious diseases and food poisoning, and to terminal disinfection where necessary;
- (b) the investigation of complaints (which cover a wide variety of subjects) and the subsequent "follow-up" of notices, formal and informal;
- (c) the inspection of meat and other foods at the local slaughterhouse and in retail shops;
- (d) the routine sampling of food and drugs, milk, ice-cream, and water;
- (e) pest control work; and
- (f) the day-to-day interviews and consultations with other officers of the Council and other authorities, as well as with members of the public or their representatives (solicitors, architects, surveyors, agents, builders, etc.).

The amount of work which these priorities involve governs the time which can be spent on the routine inspection of houses, food premises, shops, factories, etc. Another governing factor, of course, is the enthusiasm and keenness of the staff, and in this respect it is a pleasure to record the diligence and loyalty of my technical and clerical colleagues. I wish also to express my gratitude to Dr. Bingham, Medical Officer of Health, for his consideration and advice.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

G. JAMES

Chief Sanitary Inspector

10th August, 1955





## Infectious Disease, Disinfection and Disinfestation

During the year 149 visits of enquiry were made in connection with infectious disease. Twenty-four library books were disinfected by formalin vapour and returned to the libraries from which they had been borrowed.

The Table on page 30 shows in detail the work carried out at the Council's Steam Disinfecting Station at the Refuse Disposal Works, which includes the disinfection of bedding, etc., on behalf of the Dorking & Horley and the Godstone Rural District Councils.

During the year 4 houses, two of which were owned by the Corporation, were disinfested owing to the presence of bed-bugs; this compares with 12 houses similarly treated during the previous year. Of the 4 houses found to be infested, two were inspected and disinfested at the request of the occupiers. Another was occupied by two old ladies who were not really able to look after themselves properly - one of these ladies eventually died and the other was admitted for care to an institution - most of the furniture, bedding, clothing, etc. had to be disinfested or destroyed; one house was inspected prior to the occupier being rehoused by the Council, as our records showed that disinfestation on account of bed-bugs at this address had been carried out in 1942. This type of infestation is now comparatively rare in this district. Whether the scarcity of these insects is due to the use of modern and more powerful insecticides, or to a cleaner and more enlightened way of living by those who in the past seemed to regard them as part of the furniture and fittings is problematical; it may be a little of both, plus a wider knowledge of the advice and assistance which can be obtained at the local Public Health Department.

Six premises infested by cockroaches were treated with an emulsion type of insecticide containing pyrethrum and material having a residual effect; the results have generally been very successful, but these insects are in practice difficult to control and follow-up measures are nearly always necessary. This was particularly so in the case of such premises as the St. Anne's Institution, Redhill, and the Redhill County Hospital, where regular routine inspections are made under contract terms with the Surrey County Council and the Redhill Group Hospital Management Committee, for the purpose of controlling the number of these insects which from time to time infest mainly the kitchens and store rooms. School canteen-kitchens were sprayed during the fly-breeding season with a liquid D.D.T. or B.H.C. insecticide, at the request of the Education Authority, to prevent the contamination of food by flies. This work has been carried out now for a number of years with satisfactory results, and there is no evidence to show that it's effect has been to build up a resistance in flies to this particular insecticide.

## Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

## Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954

Licences were granted to two slaughtermen who were engaged in this work before the war, but whose licences had lapsed. Thirteen renewal licences were granted.

No infringement of the Acts was noted during 1954.

Under the 1954 Act, which came into operation on the 1st October, the licence granted to the occupier of the knacker's yard at Three Arch Road, Redhill, under Section 57 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, was endorsed to the effect that the premises may be used for the slaughter of horses. These premises have continued in regular use and are frequently inspected, thus ensuring a satisfactory standard of cleanliness and hygiene. Consideration was given by the Council during the latter part of the year to the adoption of the Model Bye-Laws for Knacker's Yards, issued by the Ministry of Food during October.



DETAIL OF WORK CARRIED OUT AT CORPORATION STEAM  
DISINFECTING STATION, 1954

	BEDDING						CLOTHING, FURNISHINGS, ETC.						Vernacular persons cleansed		Infected Rooms	Hospital Wards
	Beds	Matt-resses etc.	Bolsters and Pillows	Sheets Blankets etc.	Carpets etc.	Curtains Towels etc.	Clothing	Other Articles	TOTAL 1954	TOTAL 1953	1954	1953				
REIGATE AND HORLEY R.D.C.	(Notifl.Diseases	1	12	50	59	5	-	3	9	139	527	-	-	8	-	
	(Other Diseases	-	1	5	18	-	9	28	6	67	-	-	-	2	-	
	(Vermin-Scabies	-	1	1	5	-	1	8	-	16	32	-	-	-	-	
	(Vermin-Bugs	-	1	3	4	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	9	-	
	(Vermin-Fleas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	(Vermin-Other	-	1	6	17	1	-	110	28	163	275	-	-	-	-	
	(Miscellaneous (Destroyed	12	134	243	65	33	34	782	638	1941	457	-	-	12	3	
TOTAL	4	10	19	8	12	8	131	99	291	311	-	-	-	-	3	
DORKING AND HORLEY R.D.C.		17	160	327	176	51	52	1062	780	2625	1602	-	-	31	3	
	(Infect.Diseases	1	2	6	19	-	-	8	5	41	124	-	1	-	-	
	(Miscellaneous	1	5	18	10	-	-	2	1	37	348	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL	2	7	24	29	-	-	-	10	6	78	472	-	1	-	-	
GOD- STONE R.D.C.	(Infect.Diseases	-	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	9	16	-	-	-	-	
	(Miscellaneous	1	6	15	6	-	-	55	2	85	89	-	-	-	-	
	TOTAL	1	11	19	6	-	-	55	2	94	105	-	-	-	-	
S.C.A. E.C.	Miscellaneous	-	-	-	33	-	-	-	-	33	2417	-	-	-	-	
	TOTAL	-	-	-	33	-	-	-	-	33	2417	-	-	-	-	





Slaughterhouses Act, 1954

Food & Drugs Act, 1938 - Section 57

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924 - 1952

Slaughtering and Meat Inspection

The slaughterhouse in West Road, Reigate, controlled by the Ministry of Food, continued in use on the lines indicated in previous reports until July, 1954, when meat and livestock became decontrolled.

In February the Ministry of Food in Circular 4/54 drew attention to the Interim Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Slaughterhouses, and stated that, with certain exceptions, the Government had accepted the recommendations of the Committee - it was the intention to make Local Authorities responsible for ensuring that sufficient slaughtering accommodation was available for local needs, and that eventually it was the intention to implement a long-term policy of moderate concentration of slaughterhouses.

Consultations took place at once with representatives of local meat traders and others interested locally in the marketing of livestock. It was necessary to formulate plans for the immediate future, with the knowledge that of the 12 slaughterhouses which were in use before the war, only three were in such a position and condition as to warrant licensing; it was also not known whether this district would figure in any later Government scheme of moderate concentration.

As a result of these consultations, local meat traders decided to form a company (known later as the East Surrey Master Butchers' Association Ltd.) for the purpose of acting collectively for the purchase of livestock, its slaughter and the distribution of carcase meat, etc., to its members. The Company, after giving suitable undertakings to the Borough Council, occupied two of the slaughterhouses - one in West Road, Reigate, which was handed back to the owner by the Ministry of Food, and a small private slaughterhouse at Merstham, which was built about 1930, and which had been used occasionally during the war for the slaughter of pigs. The Company decided, with the approval of the Town Planning Authority and subject to certain conditions, to extend and modernise the Merstham slaughterhouse, to concentrate the whole of its activities at these premises and to hold the West Road slaughterhouse only for use in emergency. The third licensed slaughterhouse has not been used since 1939; it is situated at High Street, Reigate, in a small detached building at the rear of a pork butcher's shop, the occupier of which is actively interested in the Company above-named.

A plan and specification of the alterations and additions to the Merstham slaughterhouse were drawn up after consultation with the officers of this Department. These included improvement and extension of lairage accommodation, extension of the slaughterhouse to afford better facilities for slaughter, handling of the carcasses, etc., and for meat inspection, the addition of a refrigerated chilling-room and a cold-store; also an additional building comprising a mess-room, and sanitary accommodation and ablution facilities for the staff, a small office, covered space for dealing with the cleansing of tripes and storage of hides, skins, offal-bins, etc. The specification also dealt with wall and floor surfaces, paving of the yard and approach road, and drainage generally. The work was completed sufficiently for slaughtering to commence on 27th September, 1954. Since that date the premises at West Road, Reigate, have been used only occasionally. The Company is assisted in its work by whole-time staff consisting of a slaughterhouse manager, five slaughtermen, a driver and a clerk. The scheme as a whole has proved very successful - from the Council's point of view there has been a considerable reduction in the number of slaughterhouses which were licensed in 1939, slaughtering is now concentrated in premises where it can be carried out under reasonably satisfactory conditions free from nuisance, the carcase meat and offal can be inspected under improved conditions, and it can also be kept and satisfactorily "conditioned" in store pending its distribution to the retail shops.





The conditions imposed by the Town Planning Authority, when permission to make the extensions was granted, included the following:-

- (a) that working days for the slaughterhouse (except for emergency slaughtering), shall be limited to Mondays to Fridays only and working hours limited to 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays;
- (b) that the premises shall be so used as not to cause detriment to the amenity of the adjoining residential area as far as practicable by reason of noise, vibration, smell, fumes or smoke;
- (c) the covered lairage accommodation shall except in cases of emergency be used for the reception of animals on the day of slaughter only, except in the case of pigs which may be laired for one night only;
- (d) that no further buildings will be erected or extensions made to the present premises now used as a slaughterhouse in the High Street, Merstham;
- (e) that except in any case of emergency or where there are supplies surplus to local requirements x x x x the only animals that shall be slaughtered at the slaughterhouse shall be those for the provision of meat for sale by butchers within the Borough.

These conditions have been observed by the Association, and the fears expressed on behalf of nearby residents, who protested against the resumption of slaughtering at these premises, have not so far been realised.

This local concentration of slaughtering has made it possible to carry out meat inspection more efficiently, but it has increased the amount of time that has to be spent on this work, as it has generally been necessary for the Inspector to make two routine visits per slaughtering day - one at about midday and the other in the late afternoon - so as to prevent interruption of slaughtering and dressing of the carcasses, and their subsequent storage in the chilling-room. The two Inspectors who normally carry out this work take turns of duty during alternate weeks.

Decontrol of slaughtering brought problems connected with the emergency slaughter of sick and injured animals, and with the disposal of condemned meat. These were dealt with as follows:-

(a) Emergency slaughter - Under Ministry control, all sick and injured animals (known as "casualties") were sent to West Road from farms over a wide area; many of these animals would in normal times have gone to a knacker's yard. The local butchers were at the outset willing to assist so far as possible, but obviously did not want their routine programme disorganised by having to accept an indefinite number of "casualties" which might arrive at any time; other slaughterhouses in other districts were available, and it was also desirable that animals fit only for the knacker should not be killed and dressed in a slaughterhouse. Arrangements were therefore made between the Butchers' Association and the local Veterinary Surgeons, so that only suitably certified animals would be accepted at the slaughterhouse. The Veterinary Surgeon would have to be of opinion that there was a reasonable chance that the carcass or a substantial part of it would be fit for human consumption; he would also have to certify the animal to be free from a notifiable disease and to be suffering, in his opinion, from an illness or other disability which renders immediate slaughter necessary to prevent undue suffering. Other particulars to be given on the certificate include the nature of the illness or disability, the date of the Veterinary Surgeon's last attendance, the degree of temperature if abnormal and the nature of any medicine etc., with the date of administration, which may affect judgment of the carcass. It is also a condition that the animal should belong to a stock-owner within the Borough of Reigate or within an area immediately adjoining where there are no slaughtering facilities. It was pointed out to the Veterinary Surgeons that it was highly desirable that animals which





MEAT INSPECTION

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle exclud- ing cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Bulls (included in cattle column)
<u>NUMBER KILLED</u>	505	145	1036	4273	2946	2
<u>NUMBER INSPECTED</u>	505	145	1036	4273	2946	2
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	5	11	8	23	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	142	36	7	413	704	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	28.1	29.3	1.7	9.8	24.7	100.0
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	2	1	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	49	31	-	-	25	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	10.1	23.6	0.1	-	0.8	-

The total weight of carcasses and offals condemned was  
10 tons 13 cwts. 3 lbs.



MEAT INSPECTION - REASONS FOR CONDEMNATION

DESCRIPTION	Number Slaughtered	Tuber- culosis		Other Conditions												TOTAL	
		Generalised	Localised	Fever	Dropsy &/or Emaciation (also Immaturity)	Pyæmia	Injury	Septicæmia	Nephritis	Distomatosis & Cirrhosis	Parasitic	Abscesses	Pleurisy & Peritonitis	Pneumonia	Cavernous Angioma		Miscellaneous
BOVINES (excluding calves)	650																
Whole Carcases and Offal		4	8	1	1	1	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9
Part Carcase		-	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	5	-	1	13
Heads and Tongues		-	59	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43	6	-	-	1	43
Lungs		-	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	123	3	-	-	-	-	2	80
Livers and Part Livers		-	15	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	4	194
Mesentery and Intestines		-														3	36
CALVES -	1036																
Whole Carcases and Offal		1	-	-	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	12
Lungs		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Livers		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SHEEP -	4273																
Whole Carcases and Offal		-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	2	8
Part Carcases		-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	6	9	-	-	-	10
Lungs		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	241	158	7	1	4	-	-	178
Livers		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	9	1	-	-	-	278
Heads		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
PIGS -	2946																
Whole Carcases and Offal		-	-	1	2	6	6	5	2	-	-	1	1	1	-	4	23
Part Carcases		-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	7	1	-	-	2	18
Heads and Tongues		-	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	26
Lungs		-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	56	2	1	32	427	-	-	467
Livers		-	4	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	10	4	5	1	-	4	89
Mesentery and Intestines		-	8	237	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	-	-	264
TOTAL	8905	5	184	260	13	9	13	10	2	420	203	87	79	439	2	25	1751





could not definitely be certified as above should be dealt with by a knacker, and should not be sent to a slaughterhouse for butchers' meat. This arrangement has so far worked well in practice.

(b) Disposal of Meat unfit for Human Consumption -- Before the war this meat was disposed of by incineration at the Disposal Works. During control, the Ministry of Food sold it through agents to firms having processing plants, who could make use of it for such products as soap, fertilisers, animal feeding-stuffs, etc.; condemned livers were used for pharmaceutical purposes. The Ministry indicated that, if possible, similar salvage arrangements should continue to be made. The Butchers' Association made similar arrangements for the collection and disposal of this material, the amount of which is, of course, very much smaller than it was during the control period. Enquiries were made that the firms concerned had the necessary facilities for proper disposal; the arrangements have so far proved satisfactory.

The results of meat inspection are given in the accompanying Tables on pages 33 & 34. They show by comparison with previous years a marked reduction in the amount of disease found. This is no doubt due to the fact that from July the number of casualty animals slaughtered in the Borough was very few. During control the Ministry accepted for slaughter at Reigate all casualties sent in by stock-owners from a wide area of Surrey and adjoining counties; that accounted in previous years for the high percentage of animals found to be diseased or injured. The fall in the amount of tuberculosis found in pigs, noted in 1953, continued in 1954 at 0.8 per cent, in spite of the fact that the number slaughtered increased from 1216 to 2946.

One calf, found on inspection to be affected with congenital tuberculosis, was referred to the Divisional Veterinary Inspector with a view to tracing the source of infection.

#### Food & Drugs Act, 1938 - Section 10 - Inspection of Other Foods

The inspection of foodstuffs other than meat takes place during the routine inspection of food premises, and also at the request of traders when the condition of some particular commodity is thought to be doubtful. During 1954 the following foodstuffs were found, as a result of these inspections, to be unfit for human consumption, and were surrendered to the Inspectors for suitable disposal at the Council's Refuse Disposal Works, where such food as cannot be used in the waste food plant and subsequently sold for animal feeding purposes is destroyed by incineration:-

Bacon	5 cwt.
Cheese	17 lbs.
Fish	8 cwt. 3 qtrs.
Flour, Bread, Biscuits	46 lbs.
Ham - canned	2 cwts.
Meat and Offal	9 cwt. 1 qtr.
Meat .. canned	7 cwt. 2 qtrs.
Sausages	53 lbs.
Coffee	4 lbs.
Sugar and Preserves	20 lbs.
Lemonade Powder	21 lbs.
Sweets and Chocolate	4 cwt. 1 qtr.
Jellies & Desserts	27 lbs.
Potatoes	1 cwt.
Pickles and Sauces	118 jars
Paste (Meat and Fish)	3 jars and tins
Tinned Fruit Pulp	48 tins
" Beans	43 "
" Carrots	18 "
" Fruit	523 "
" Fish	35 "
" Milk	159 "
" Peas	55 "
" Soup	164 "
" Tomatoes	84 "
" Tomato Concentrate	27 "
" Vegetables, (Mixed)	8 "
Vegetables, dried	1 cwt.
Fruit, dried	58 lbs.
Packet food (miscellaneous)	433 pkts.

This work involved 99 visits by the Inspectors



Eight complaints were received from purchasers of food that it's condition was such as to render it unfit for consumption, or that it contained foreign material. Each case was thoroughly investigated, but in no instance were legal proceedings instituted. The following is a summary of the cases:-

(a) Bread was the food in question in three cases, the foreign material complained of being a small piece of string, part of a match-stick, and a small piece of grease. Two of the bakehouses concerned were in the Borough and one was in the Penge district. In each case the complainant was unwilling to give formal evidence, so that no action apart from interviews and correspondence could be taken.

(b) The condition on retail sale of meat and of cheese was suspected in two cases by the purchasers, but in the opinion of the Inspector investigating the complaints the food was fit for consumption when sold.

(c) A complaint made in writing of foreign material alleged to have been found in cakes made by a local firm could not be substantiated, and no action apart from correspondence with the complainant was taken.

(d) Investigation into a complaint made late on a Saturday evening, through the police, that meat served during a meal taken at a restaurant was horse-flesh, showed that the meat was in fact beef and that the complainant had made a mistake in the address of the restaurant.

(e) A complaint was received from the headmaster of a local school that a bottle of milk had been found by a child drinking the milk to contain pieces of glass. Enquiries showed that the milk had been pasteurised, bottled and capped at a modern and well-equipped dairy in another part of the county. The bottle itself was intact and showed no sign of fracture or chipping, but it undoubtedly contained several small fragments of glass. A visit to the dairy showed that reasonable precautions appeared to be taken to prevent such a dangerous contamination, but it was seen after close inspection and watching that, in spite of the constant vigilance that obviously took place, pieces of broken glass could by accident get into an undamaged filled bottle whilst travelling a few feet on a conveyor from the filling machine to the capping machine. If a bottle was seen to be fractured at that point, contamination was possible if the attendant employee lifting the fractured bottle from the conveyor passed it momentarily over the adjoining uncapped bottle. When this remote possibility was discovered, the dairy management took immediate steps to prevent contamination by instructing the attendant at that particular point to remove, when the necessity arose, not only the damaged bottle, but also the undamaged ones immediately adjoining.

Orders made before the war under the Merchandise Marks Act, 1926, again came into force in 1951. The Orders relate to the following imported foodstuffs:

Fresh apples; currants, sultanas and raisins;  
eggs (in shell); dried eggs; oat products; raw tomatoes;  
bacon and ham; dead poultry; meat; margarine; malt  
products; frozen or chilled salmon and sea trout; honey.

They provide that on sale the goods shall bear an indication of the country of origin. The object of the Orders is to give the purchasing public the opportunity of choosing whether they will buy goods of Home, Empire or Foreign origin. The food traders concerned have been found to comply with these Orders in a reasonably satisfactory manner. The few minor infringements noted have related to the marking of imported apples and tomatoes; but verbal requests by the Inspectors for compliance with the Orders have secured correct marking.

#### Food and Drugs Act, 1938 - Sections 13 & 14

The Register of food premises now includes the following:-

Grocers, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	92
Butchers, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
Fishmongers and Fish-fryers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Confectioners (including 17 bakehouses)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	94
Catering Establishments (including 69 Public Houses)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	119
Food Manufactories	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8







Four hundred and sixty-one visits of inspection were made to food premises, particular attention being given to those which are registered under Section 14, and which are shown in detail below as being on the Register at the end of 1954:-

(a) Manufacture and sale of preserved food, etc.:

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No. of Inspections</u>
Butchers, etc. .. .. .	29	89
Fish-fryers .. .. .	12	28
Bakers (manufacture of meat pies)	2	6
Fruiterer (manufacture of jam and marmalade)	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>
Total	<u>44</u>	<u>127</u>

(b) Manufacture and storage of ice-cream:

Confectioner, etc. .	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>
----------------------	----------	----------

(c) Storage and sale of ice-cream:

Confectioners, etc.	66	55
Grocers, etc.	29	36
Fruiterers, etc.	5	1
Fishmongers, etc.	4	9
Newsagents, etc.	4	2
Butcher	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>109</u>	<u>103</u>

In addition to the above-named premises, there are 16 catering establishments where ice-cream is sold for consumption off the premises which are exempt from registration under existing law.

Inspection shows that the occupiers of registered premises in general maintain a satisfactory standard of cleanliness, both of premises and equipment, and in the methods adopted for the storage and handling of food whilst on the premises. With one exception, no serious infringement of Section 13 or of the bye-laws made under Section 15 has been noted. The exception was the unsatisfactory and dirty conditions which were revealed when an inspection was made of a butcher's shop registered for sausage-making. These were duly reported to the Public Health Committee. In the interval between the inspection and the report a considerable improvement in conditions took place, and the occupier discontinued the manufacture of sausages. The Committee decided that, in the circumstances, the occupier, who in a letter admitted lack of supervision, etc., should be warned that if similar conditions are found in future, legal proceedings will follow.

When it became known that new shops erected on the new London County Council housing estate at Herstham were about to be let, the officer responsible for the lettings was asked to give to this Department the names and addresses of the prospective occupiers, so that details of layout, fittings and equipment could be discussed prior to the work being carried out. This co-operation was especially necessary as the shops, which were situated beneath blocks of flats, were so designed that it was difficult to obtain sufficient natural light and ventilation at the rear in cases where partitioning took place.

There is similar co-operation between this Department and the Borough Surveyor's Department whenever plans of new shops are deposited for bye-law approval; it is thus possible to make observations to the architects or builders concerned on points relating to general sanitary or hygienic conditions before construction is commenced.

Some of the improvements made in food premises as a result of inspections are shown on page 44.



## Food and Drugs Act, 1938 - Sampling

All of the 117 samples submitted were purchased by the Sampling Officer as a matter of routine, and, as will be seen, covered a wide range of commodities. The following is a summary of the samples reported on unfavourably:-

- (a) A sample of dried apricots contained a slight excess of sulphur dioxide as a preservative. The attention of the wholesaler was drawn to the infringement, but there were no further stocks of this importation on hand.
- (b) A sample of olive oil proved genuine, but was incorrectly labelled. The statement on the label - "an oil of guaranteed purity pressed only from the finest olives rich in vitamin" - was considered by the Public Analyst to be a general claim that vitamins were present in the article, whereas no statement as to the nature of the vitamins nor the quantity present appeared on the label, as required by the Labelling of Food Order, 1953. The manufacturers agreed to issue an amended label, which was satisfactory in wording.
- (c) An informal sample of confectionery (butter brazils) showed on analysis that the toffee covering the brazil nuts contained only 1.4 per cent of butter-fat. Where the word "butter" is used in the description of sugar confectionery, the butter-fat content should be not less than 4 per cent of that part of the product with which the butter-fat is mixed. The sample could not be followed up formally owing to insufficient stock remaining in the retailer's hands. The manufactory was situated in the Croydon area, and the case was referred to the sampling officer of that district for appropriate action.
- (d) A technical infringement of labelling occurred in respect of a sample of Bland's Bills B.P. The Analyst reported that this article was excluded from the British Pharmacopoeia, 1953, so the letters "B.P." should not have been included in the description. The vendor's attention was drawn to the irregularity.
- (e) A sample of milk taken informally at a local hospital from a supply delivered under contract showed a one per cent deficiency in milk solids other than milk fat - the freezing point test showed no evidence of added water. Follow-up samples taken formally, after receiving the Analyst's report, showed the milk to be genuine - no further action was taken.
- (f) A sample of milk sold as "Channel Island" milk, which should contain at least 4 per cent of butter-fat, contained only 3.8 per cent. A report on this sample was submitted for action to the Area Milk Officer of the Ministry of Food's Milk Division.
- (g) A sample of pork sausages was found to contain sulphur dioxide as a preservative. This was found to be a purely technical offence; the vendor was cautioned and his attention was drawn to the need of displaying notices, etc.
- (h) A sample of gooseberry jam was found to contain only 59.9 per cent of soluble solids, instead of the standard  $68\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. The jam was made on a very small scale by a local confectioner and cake maker, who was advised on the standard to be maintained. No follow-up samples were taken as very soon afterwards the business closed down.
- (i) A sample of Ammoniated Tincture of uinine was deficient in ammonia to the extent of at least 16 per cent. The vendor surrendered the existing small stock, which had recently been taken over on transfer of the business. No further action was indicated.
- (j) Samples of "trick" sweets in a form of tablets or hazel nuts were submitted to the Public Analyst following a complaint made by a purchaser that similar "sweets" had caused blistering of the tongue in one case, and intense irritation of the eyes in another. They were reported by the Analyst to consist of tablets containing a pepper extract, etc.,







FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 - SAMPLING  
(Public Analyst: D. D. Moir Esq., M.Sc., F.R.I.C.)

FOODSTUFFS	SAMPLES TAKEN				Total	Genuine	Adulterated
	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter			
Milk	7	14	8	5	34	32	2
Ice-cream	1	-	2	1	4	4	-
Synthetic Cream	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Butter	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Margarine	-	1	1	-	2	2	-
Cooking Fat	1	1	-	-	2	2	-
Cheese	-	1	1	-	2	2	-
Tea	1	1	-	-	2	2	-
Sausage, Pork	3	1	1	-	5	4	1
Sausage, Beef	1	-	1	-	2	2	-
Liver Sausage	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Haslet	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Minced Beef	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Meat Paste	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Ground Almonds	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Ground White Pepper	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Sultanas	-	-	-	2	2	2	-
Raisins	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Dried Apricots	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Mixed Dried Fruit	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Glace Cherries	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Jam and Marmalade	2	-	4	-	6	5	1
Mincemeat	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Coffee & Chicory Essence	-	1	-	1	2	2	-
Vanilla Essence	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Sauces	-	3	2	2	7	7	-
Olive Oil	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Salad Cream	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Self Raising Flour	2	-	-	-	2	2	-
Cornflour	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Desiccated Coconut	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Butter Brazils	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Butter Drops	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Marzipan	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
"Trick" Sweets	-	-	2	-	2	-	2
Soft Drinks	2	2	1	-	5	5	-
Chocolate Flavour Drink	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Lemon Juice	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Cider	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Barley Wine	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Beer	-	-	1	1	2	2	-
Whisky	-	-	2	1	3	3	-
Chest & Lung Mixture	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Medicinal Liquid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paraffin B.P.	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Calamine Lotion	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Blaud's Pills B.P.	-	1	-	-	1	-	1
Tincture of Quinine	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
Codeine Tablets	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Chlorophyll Tablets	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Soda Mint Tablets B.P.	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
TOTAL	32	31	32	22	117	106	11



and hazel nuts either sprayed with or soaked in a pepper extract. These so-called sweets were sold in paper packets labelled "Bee Pee Pep Sweets" and "Bec Pee Devil Nuts", and in each case bore the words "They Pop 'em in - Then Spit 'em out - Quick! 'Hottest' joke ever known" - there was nothing to indicate the name or address of the manufacturer. The Analyst reported that they were liable to cause acute irritation, leading to reddening or even blistering of the tongue, lips and mouth, and to sneezing and lachrymation. He was of opinion that the sweets were quite unfit for consumption in this way. He further stated - "the question whether these articles could be regarded as food intended for human consumption is open to argument, but I am fully satisfied that they are in fact consumed in practice and that the results could be drastic and even harmful. Consumption does not necessarily mean swallowing. The placing in the mouth and sucking is a form of consumption in so far as some of the article is extracted and absorbed. I hope you will be able to stop the sale of these articles".

When the attention of the retailer was drawn to these reports he agreed immediately to stop the sale and surrendered his remaining stock; so far as is known similar articles have not since been sold in this Borough. Enquiries revealed that the "sweets" were sold by wholesale to this area by a firm at Brighton. They were manufactured in Preston, Lancs. Correspondence which followed showed that the Public Analysts of Brighton and Maidstone had already expressed similar opinions, but no positive action had been taken as it was doubtful if proceedings under the Food & Drugs Act or the Merchandise Marks Act would succeed. This view was also taken by the Local Authority at Preston. The facts of the case were reported to the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Food and the Association of Municipal Corporations, with a request for suitable action to be taken to stop the manufacture and sale of "sweets" of this nature.

#### Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

The entries in the Registers required to be kept in accordance with the Regulations are summarised as follows:-

##### Distributors:

(a) With 4 dairies in the Borough	..	..	..	..	3
(b) With dairies outside the Borough	..	..	..	..	5
(c) With premises in the Borough	..	..	..	..	12
(bottled milk sold in general shops)					

##### Dairies:

Of the four dairies, two were used only for the cold storage and distribution of bottled pasteurised milk. One is in comparatively small premises where untreated specially designated milk is received for bottling and retail sale - this dairy was closed during the latter part of the year after this district was included in a "Specified Area". The fourth is a large dairy equipped with a high-temperature short-time pasteurising apparatus and other modern dairy fittings. Frequent inspections of these dairies have been made, and particular attention has been paid to the last-mentioned dairy where a large proportion of the milk consumed in the Borough is pasteurised. The fact that the dairy has now become too small for the amount of business carried on renders frequent inspections increasingly necessary, but in spite of all the difficulties, the management is co-operative and is making the necessary arrangements for extensions and improvements which will be carried out in the near future. Frequent samples of the pasteurised milk are taken both on the premises and on the round, and results are invariably satisfactory.

A detailed report on the samples of milk which were taken in 1954 from producers and distributors, and submitted for bacteriological examination, is given in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.





## Hairdressers' and Barbers' Establishments

Bye-laws made under Section 125 of the Surrey County Council Act, 1936, with respect to hairdressers and barbers came into operation on 1st September, 1954. These deal with the cleanliness of the premises and of the instruments, tools, equipment and materials used therein. The adoption of the bye-laws followed the survey and inspection of premises and the consequential discussions which took place with representatives of the trade; particulars of these were given in the Annual Report for 1953, which also included a copy of a code of practice adopted by the trade and approved by the Borough Council.

During 1954, 73 re-inspections were made of 44 premises - 18 men's and 26 women's establishments. One women's business had been discontinued since the original survey - the premises had been found to be unsatisfactory, the occupier was unable to bring them to a reasonable standard and decided to close down. A second had moved from unsatisfactory premises to a modernised shop. One men's business had also been moved to new and better premises. The re-inspections showed:-

(a) that in 30 premises improvements had taken place under such headings as design and layout, structural condition, light and ventilation, drainage and sanitary fittings, equipment, etc., and refuse disposal; premises which in the 1953 survey had been found to be below what was considered to be a reasonable standard were in 1954 found to be reduced from 24 to 12;

(b) that in 36 premises improvements had taken place in methods (personal hygiene, cleanliness and sterilisation) to the extent that the number found in 1953 to be below a reasonable standard was reduced from 33 to 21. In the matter of the routine sterilisation of tools and equipment, it was found that a suitable liquid disinfectant was in regular use in 21 premises where previously no such routine precautions had been taken.

## Factories Act, 1937

The Table on page 42 shows in detail the various trades in the Borough that come within the scope of the Act. During the year 172 inspections were made. The Register of factories has been further brought up-to-date and now contains 183 entries; in 20 cases defects relating particularly to sanitary accommodation and general cleanliness were discovered; defects in 15 factories were remedied. H.M. Inspector of Factories drew attention to defects in 5 of the above cases which came within the sections of the Factories Act enforceable by the Local Authority.

Two factories were examined for the first time in accordance with Section 34 relating to means of escape in case of fire. Certificates were issued to the occupiers in both cases.

## Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

There is only one factory which is subject to the provisions of this Act - one in which spring mattresses are manufactured. This is registered in accordance with Section 2. No samples of rag flock or other fillings were taken during 1954.

## Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954

This Act came into operation on 30th August, 1954. Its main provisions deal with the additional powers given to Local Authorities in the clearance and demolition of unfit houses, the reconditioning and maintenance of houses, and the "repairs increase" of the rents of controlled houses.

Local Authorities are charged with the duty of formulating proposals for dealing with the unfit houses in their districts - proposals which include an estimate of the number of houses unfit for human habitation and suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936, and which must be submitted to the Minister by the 30th August, 1955.



Factories Act, 1937 - List of Factories  
on Register at end of 1954

								<u>Mechanical</u> <u>Power</u>	<u>No</u> <u>Mechanical</u> <u>Power</u>
Agricultural Engineers	..	..	..	..				3	-
Art Leather Works	..	..	..	..				1	-
Bakers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	-
Basket Work	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
Book Binder	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
Boot Makers and Repairers		..	..	..	..			4	-
Brick Makers, etc.	..	..	..	..	..			3	-
Builders and Contractors	..	..	..	..	..			6	4
Cabinet Makers and Upholsterers		..	..					5	1
Cork Disc Manufacturers	..	..	..	..				1	-
Cycle Makers, Repairers and Vulcanisers	..							1	3
Dairymen	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
Dressmakers and Milliners		..	..	..	..			1	3
Dry Cleaners	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	-
Engineers Automobile	..	..	..	..	..			20	1
Engineers Electrical	..	..	..	..	..			2	1
Engineers Light	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	1
Food Manufacturers	..	..	..	..	..			5	-
File Boxes Manufacturers		..	..	..	..			1	-
Foundry	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	-
Fullers Earth Works	..	..	..	..	..			1	-
Gas Works	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	-
Glass Cutting and Paint Packing		..	..					1	-
Hardware Assembly	..	..	..	..	..			1	-
Hearthstone Works	..	..	..	..	..			1	-
Jam and Essence Makers	..	..	..	..	..			1	1
Knacker's Yard	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
Lace Frilling Works	..	..	..	..	..			1	-
Laundries	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	-
Log Sawing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
Mattress Manufacturers	..	..	..	..	..			1	-
Mineral Water Manufacturers	..	..	..	..	..			2	-
Monumental Masons and Undertakers	..	..						-	2
Motor Body Repairs	..	..	..	..	..			6	-
Newspaper Fudging	..	..	..	..	..			3	-
Oil Refining	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
Photographers and Picture Frame Makers	..							-	1
Pianoforte Repairers	..	..	..	..	..			-	1
Plumbers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3
Precast Concrete Manufacturers		..	..					1	-
Printers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	-
Public Works Contractors	..	..	..	..	..			2	-
Scale Repairers	..	..	..	..	..			2	-
Seed Merchants	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	-
Sewing Machine Repairs	..	..	..	..	..			2	-
Shoeing and General Smiths		..	..	..	..			-	2
Shop Fitters	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
Soldering Outfit Assembly		..	..	..	..			-	1
Steel Wool Manufacturers		..	..	..	..			1	-
Tailors	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Thermometer Manufacturers		..	..	..	..			1	-
Timber Merchants	..	..	..	..	..			2	-
Toy Manufacturers	..	..	..	..	..			1	1
Watchmakers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Wax Refining Works	..	..	..	..	..			1	-
Building Sites and Works of Engineering Construction								7	-
								<u>153</u>	<u>30</u>

TOTALS





The immediate effect of this new legislation on the work of the Sanitary Inspectors was:

(a) to concentrate effort on carrying out a rapid survey of the district in order to make the required estimate, as the information already in the Department was insufficient to complete the form of proposals specified by the Minister. The survey was commenced before the end of the year, but it was seen at once that difficulties of interpretation would arise on the new definition of standard of fitness for human habitation, and the absence of any definition or guidance as to what constitutes "reasonably suitable for occupation" when applying the standard to a particular property; there is a similar absence of guidance when considering the question of "reasonable expense" in relation to the cost of repairs; and

(b) to make preparation for a detailed inspection of properties likely to be the subject of applications by tenants for "certificates of disrepair", following notice by owners of intention to increase rents. There were many applications for advice by owners and tenants, who called at the Department for personal interview and discussion, but the actual number of applications for certificates has been few - the first was dated 18th November, 1954; up to the end of the year four houses were formally inspected, resulting in certificates being granted in three cases and one application being refused.

### Complaints

The following is a summary of the complaints received during the year:-

Insanitary condition of premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	81
Defective dustbin	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
House drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28
Cesspools overflowing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Non-removal of house refuse	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Kitchen-waste street-bins	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Rats or Mice	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	304
Verminous premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Other insect pests	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Wasps' nests	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	115
Unsound food (sold)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Dirty milk bottles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Keeping of animals, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Smoke nuisance	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45

### Notices Issued and Action Taken

The following Table is a statement of the notices dealt with during the year:-

#### Preliminary -

Outstanding on 1st January, 1954	..	..	..	..	..	80
Issued during year	..	..	..	..	..	207
Complied with during year	..	..	..	..	..	202
Statutory action necessary	..	..	..	..	..	3
Outstanding on 31st December, 1954	..	..	..	..	..	82

#### Statutory -

Outstanding on 1st January, 1954	..	..	..	..	1
Issued during year	..	..	..	..	3
Complied with during year	..	..	..	..	2
Outstanding on 31st December, 1954	..	..	..	..	2



Nuisances Abated, Defects Remedied etc

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year, both voluntarily and in consequence of notices in respect of dwelling-houses, food premises, factories, and other business premises.

Dwelling-houses

Roofs repaired .. .. .	32
Eaves-gutters and stack-pipes repaired .. .. .	30
Chimney-stacks rebuilt or repaired .. .. .	8
Pointing or otherwise weatherproofing of brickwork (houses)	15
Other causes of dampness remedied .. .. .	19
Drains examined or tested (primary inspections only) ..	154
Drainage systems relaid .. .. .	15
Drains partially relaid .. .. .	17
Blocked drains cleared .. .. .	37
New intercepting or inspection chambers constructed ..	26
Soil or ventilation pipes installed or renewed .. ..	12
New W.Cs. installed .. .. .	16
W.C. apparatus renewed or repaired .. .. .	9
W.C. flushing cisterns renewed or repaired .. .. .	1
Cesspools abolished .. .. .	6
Existing house drains connected to public sewer .. ..	6
Sink gully dishings repaired or gully renewed .. ..	3
Dustbins renewed .. .. .	7
Rooms cleansed and redecorated .. .. .	56
Plaster of walls and/or ceilings repaired .. .. .	53
Floors repaired or renewed .. .. .	21
Window frames or sashcords repaired .. .. .	31
Doors repaired or renewed .. .. .	8
Fireplaces repaired or renewed .. .. .	7
Staircases repaired .. .. .	1
Sinks renewed or installed .. .. .	8
Washing coppers repaired or renewed .. .. .	1
Washhand basins renewed or installed .. .. .	10
Waste pipes trapped or repaired .. .. .	9
Water supply pipes repaired or installed .. .. .	3
Baths installed .. .. .	7
Nuisances from animals or poultry abated .. .. .	7
Accumulations removed .. .. .	6
Other nuisances abated .. .. .	11
Food stores provided .. .. .	4

Food Premises:

Sanitary accommodation improved .. .. .	5
Drainage system improved .. .. .	2
Rooms cleansed and/or redecorated .. .. .	20
Plaster of walls and/or ceilings repaired .. .. .	6
Windows repaired .. .. .	3
Floors repaired or renewed .. .. .	8
Internal paintwork renewed .. .. .	1
Washhand basins installed .. .. .	2
Ablution facilities otherwise improved .. .. .	2
Constant hot water supply installed .. .. .	6
Sinks renewed or installed .. .. .	5
Premises rat-proofed .. .. .	2
Other nuisances abated .. .. .	10

Factories:

Sanitary accommodation improved .. .. .	2
Floors repaired .. .. .	1
New W.Cs. installed .. .. .	1
Drainage system improved .. .. .	1
Other nuisances abated .. .. .	2

Other Business Premises:

Drainage systems improved or repaired .. .. .	5
Sanitary accommodation improved .. .. .	6
New Inspection Chambers constructed or repaired ..	1
Washhand basins installed .. .. .	1
New W.Cs. installed .. .. .	2
Blocked drains cleared .. .. .	2
Premises rat-proofed .. .. .	1
Other nuisances abated .. .. .	4





## Fairground Sanitation

The importance of ensuring satisfactory sanitary conditions at fairgrounds and similar places was brought to notice in September, 1953, following the investigation of a complaint of nuisance caused on a Corporation recreation ground by the occupiers of caravans attached to a Fair. The proprietor of any Fair, Circus, etc., occupying land under the Council's control is required to sign an agreement which now includes a clause dealing with sanitary conditions in and about the site; the Council provides, where necessary, temporary screened accommodation, both for the persons living and working on the site and the general public - a regular emptying and cleansing service is provided by the Borough Surveyor, for which a charge of 15/- a day is made. These arrangements have brought about an improvement, which is now appreciated by Fair and Circus proprietors.

## Heating Appliances (Fire Guards) Act, 1952, and Regulations, 1953

The above-named Act imposes a prohibition on the sale or hire or hire purchase of heating appliances which are not fitted with a guard or which, though fitted with a guard, do not comply with the standards prescribed by the above Regulations. The heating appliances in question are gas fires, electric fires and oil heaters which are so designed that they are suitable for use in residential premises, and are of such a type that without a guard there is a likelihood of injury to the person or of ignition of clothing or other fabrics.

Detailed standards of construction and fittings for guards, and the tests to be employed in ascertaining whether guards comply with those standards, are set out in the Regulations.

Heating appliances manufactured before the date of the coming into operation of the Regulations, i.e. 1st October, 1953, and not fitted with the requisite guard, were allowed to be sold until the end of September, 1954.

The few inspections and tests which it was possible to make during the latter part of 1954 revealed no infringements of the Act.

## Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The results of the year's work under this heading are shown in the tabulated statement given below.

tabulated statement given below.				Type of Property			All other (including Business & Industrial)	Total
		<u>Local Authority</u>	<u># Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>Agri cul- tural</u>				
I.	Total No. of properties in Local Authority's district .. .. .	<u>28</u>	<u>13,462</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>1,673</u>	<u>15,217</u>		
II.	No. of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1954 (a) 6		231	2	65	304		
	as a result (a) of notification or (b) (b) -		15	-	6	21		
	otherwise .. .. .							
III.	No. of properties (under II) found to be infested by rats	Major - Minor 5	- 176	- 2	- 49	- 232		
IV.	No. of properties (under II) found to be seriously infested by mice .. .. .	-	20	-	17	37		
V.	No. of infested properties (under III and IV) treated by the Local Authority	5	171	2	60	238		
							<u>Rats</u>	<u>Mice</u>
No. of infested premises under or awaiting treatment at the end of the year .. .. .							33	2
No. of complaints awaiting investigation at the end of the year .. .. .							1	-
No. of "block control" schemes carried out .. .. .							13	

≠ Council houses are included under dwelling-houses



It was not found necessary to secure the treatment of infested properties by the service of statutory notices. Work undertaken by the Pests Officers met with the ready co-operation of all concerned.

In addition to the above work, the sewerage systems of the Borough were again tested once and treated twice during the year. The test which took place in June included for the first time the sewerage system of the completed portion of the new L.C.C. Housing Estate at Merstham, which has a separate main sewer and outfall to the reconstructed Merstham Sewage Works. Comparatively few rats were found in the older systems, but it was surprising to find that in so short a time after construction, the new Merstham sewers were infested. It was difficult to determine the extent of the infestation and to treat it, as owing to there being no intercepting traps between the sewers and the house drains, the latter systems had also become infested; there was also evidence of faulty drainage work resulting in a number of small surface infestations. Rats originally gained access to the sewers and drains at the time of construction, when inspection chambers, etc., were left open at a time when there was evidence of rats under and about workmen's mess huts, attracted and encouraged thereto by scraps of foodstuffs left about by the men. The Pests Officer was successful after prolonged and thorough treatment in completely clearing the infestation.

Rodent control work at the Council's Refuse & Sewage Disposal Works continued systematically throughout the year with successful results. Conditions at these Works are naturally attractive to rats - there is ample food, warmth and shelter - and so long as there are rats in the neighbouring rural surroundings a number will always migrate to the Works. Permanent baiting boxes at selected points are maintained and checked by the Pests Officer, who also carries out a general treatment over the whole area twice a year. The result of this systematic treatment is that at any one time the number of rats infesting the Works is very small.

A routine inspection of the banks of the stream which flows through the Redhill and Earlswood areas was made in July; they were found to be extensively rat infested. Clearance entailed poison baiting at over 200 points. Rats are encouraged in that particular district by quite large amounts of bread and other food thrown into the stream by residents of houses on both sides; they were asked in a letter sent to all occupiers not to scatter food in this way, but to put it in either a street food-bin or the house dustbin; they were also asked to help the Department by notifying the office of future signs of rat infestation.

Rodent control work has also been carried out on railway properties at the request of the District Engineer of British Railways (Southern Region). There has also been useful co-operation with the Pests Officer of the Surrey Agricultural Executive Committee, who controls a staff of operatives available to assist farmers by routine inspections, etc., under contract terms.

The work mentioned above also does not include work carried out under contract arrangements with:

- (a) the Surrey County Council at all their premises in this Borough; these include the Public Assistance Institution and its ancillary Homes, 25 schools and 7 school kitchens, day nursery, clinics, fire brigade premises, etc.;
- (b) the Group Hospital Management Committee at the Redhill County Hospital;
- (c) one commercial firm, involving regular routine inspections of five premises owned by a local dairy.

The poison which is now most used in this work is "Warfarin", a synthetic chemical which acts as a blood anti-coagulant; rats feeding on this substance, mixed with a suitable bait, die from internal haemorrhage. It has the advantage over other poisons in that the material cannot be detected by rodents; the difficulty of poison prejudice does not, therefore, arise and baiting can be continuous. It is also relatively harmless to human beings and domestic animals, but care must be exercised in its use, as accidents involving the loss of other animals through carelessness have been recorded in other districts. Other poisons in occasional use are zinc phosphide, arsenic, red squill and "antu".







The last meeting of the Surrey No.3 Workable Area Committee was held on the 20th October, 1954. It was decided to discontinue the activities of this Committee, as it was felt that it no longer served a useful purpose.

#### Other Pest Control Work

From time to time the Department is asked for advice from residents and occupiers of trade and business premises on the destruction of various pests other than rats and mice; for example, rabbits, squirrels, moles, foxes, badgers, pigeons, wasps, etc. The Pests Officers have been able in many instances to give practical and useful assistance in saving domestic livestock and garden crops from further destruction, and in preventing further damage to property. An example in the latter category concerned complaints made by shopkeepers in the eastern end of Station Road, Redhill, of nuisance and damage which was being caused by the considerable number of pigeons which were then in the neighbourhood. Investigation showed the presence of scores of these birds perched on the roofs and window ledges of such buildings as the Market Hall, and many shop premises. There was considerable fouling of the buildings and adjoining pavements. The destruction of pigeons in these circumstances is extremely difficult, but the Pests Officer was able over a period of some months, to reduce the number by over 100 by trapping.

#### Legal Proceedings

It was not found necessary during 1954 to institute legal proceedings under any of the headings given in this Report.

